

Wild and Scenic River Review

In The State of Utah

Process and Criteria for Interagency Use



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WILD AND SCENIC RIVER REVIEW IN THE STATE OF UTAH PROCESS AND CRITERIA FOR INTERAGENCY USE

INTRODUCTION

On December 13, 1994, an Interagency Agreement was signed by the Bureau of Land Management (Utah State Office), the USDA Forest Service (Intermountain Region), and the National Park Service (Rocky Mountain Region). The agreement calls for the three agencies to “work cooperatively to define common criteria and processes for use in determining the eligibility and suitability of Utah rivers for potential inclusion by Congress in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS).”

This system was created by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (the Act), which states:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation, which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Section 5(d)(1) of the Act directs federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic and recreational river areas in all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources. Agencies typically conduct wild and scenic river reviews as part of their land management planning process.

The intent of this paper is to provide a uniform methodology to be used by the three agencies to obtain consistent results in wild and scenic river eligibility assessments made during planning efforts in the state of Utah. No attempt is made to reiterate all the detail presented in agency manuals and policy papers on wild and scenic review. Rather, this paper focuses upon clarifying and unifying that part of the review process that has been most highly variable within and between agencies.

Historically, the greatest inconsistencies in agency wild and scenic review processes have been in making eligibility determinations – specifically in the methodologies used to ascertain whether river resources are significant enough to qualify a river for inclusion in the national system. This paper describes common criteria for identifying whether a river has “outstandingly remarkable” values. It also provides guidance for other agency and government coordination and public involvement as eligibility considerations are made.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER PROCESS

THREE-STEP PROCESS

Wild and scenic review has three steps: eligibility, tentative classification, and suitability. Although the focus of this paper is on eligibility, a summary of all three steps is provided here for overall understanding of the review process.

1. Eligibility

The purpose of the eligibility step is to determine which rivers within the planning area have values that meet the minimum requirements for addition to the national system. In order to be eligible for inclusion into the national system, a river or river segment must be “free-flowing” and must exhibit one or more “outstandingly remarkable” scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values. The finding of eligibility is an inventory step for agency planning in the land management planning process for suitability and possible inclusion by Congress into the national system.

2. Tentative Classification

Section 2(b) of the Act specifies three classification categories – wild, scenic, and recreational. Tentative classification is based on the type and degree of human development associated with the river and adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the evaluation. Final classification is determined by Congress if and when a river is designated into the national system. Refer to the table from federal interagency guidelines (Federal Register 47 FR 39454, September 7, 1982) in Appendix D.

3. Suitability

The purpose of the suitability component is to determine whether eligible rivers are appropriate additions to the national system by considering tradeoffs between corridor development and river protection. This is done by comparing alternative ways of managing the river corridor, including and alternative assuming Congressional designation of all eligible river segments and an alternative assuming non-designation of all eligible river segments. Suitability considerations include the environmental and economic consequences of designation and the manageability of the river if it is designated. See Appendix E for suitability factors to be considered.

PACKAGING WATERCOURSES FOR REVIEW

Agencies typically conduct wild and scenic reviews as part of their land management planning process. During this process, all rivers in an administrative area which may have potential for designation into the national system should be reviewed.

A determination on how to “package” watercourses for review should be made early in the process. For example, should major tributaries along with mainstream rivers be evaluated as a single unit? Would the resource best be served by evaluating entire systems, rather than discrete reaches?

To the extent possible, agency wild and scenic studies should reflect the fact that rivers are most effectively evaluated through a process of segmentation. The segmentation process is addressed under “Process For Determining Eligibility.”

COORDINATION, COOPERATION, AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The federal agency(s) conducting the review shall coordinate and consult with other federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments on issues including timing and data collection and data sharing aspects of the review. They shall provide all communities of interest including the above agencies and governments as well as conservation and user groups and the interested public with the opportunity to provide information regarding river related resources, values, uses and conflicts.

Each federal agency is responsible for evaluating and making eligibility, tentative classification, and suitability determinations within its respective jurisdiction. However, river stretches are often multijurisdictional in nature, requiring close coordination efforts. Ideally, wild and Scenic River studies would be conducted concurrently with other agencies jointly evaluates any river segments that cross administrative boundaries rather than end efforts at the boundaries. Where such efforts cannot be synchronized, agencies may proceed to evaluate and document the river areas within their management jurisdiction in order to not delay planning efforts.

For **eligibility** considerations:

- 1) The focus of coordination and public involvement efforts is to solicit nominations and to obtain information that would assist with considerations regarding outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing character.
- 2) Any eligibility documentation completed by other agencies for portions of the river will be reviewed. Where an eligibility assessment has not already been completed on contiguous federal lands, the initiating federal agency will invite the other(s) to concurrently make eligibility findings on portions of the river within their respective management jurisdictions.

For **suitability** considerations:

- 1) The focus of coordination and public involvement is to identify existing and future planned uses of each eligible river corridor, and to provide information regarding tradeoffs and concerns or support associated with Congressional designation and non-designation of each eligible river segment. Existing plans will be reviewed.
- 2) The initiating federal agency(s) will coordinate with and solicit involvement from other federal agencies, state, tribal and local governments, and private interests with ownership or jurisdiction along the river to identify any concerns or support for designation into the national system, including the extent to which the administration of the river, including the costs thereof, may be shared.

ELIGIBILITY

FREE –FLOWING CHARACTER

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Section 16(a)) defines a river as:

...a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

There is no minimum length required in order for a river or river segment to be eligible.

Section 16(b) of the Act defines free-flowing as:

...existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers systems shall not automatically bar its consideration for inclusion: provided, that this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

Because Congress has allowed for the existence of some human modification of a river way, the presence of impoundments or major dams above or below a segment under review (including those that may regulate the flow regime through the segment), and the existence of minor dams, diversion structures and rip-rap within the segment shall not by themselves render a reach ineligible. River segments impacted by such water resource developments may still be eligible as long as they remain riverine in appearance.

There are no specific requirements concerning minimum flow for an eligible segment. Flows are considered sufficient for eligibility if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the segment would be designated. Rivers with intermittent flows have been designated into the national system, and rivers representative of desert ecosystems should also be considered for inclusion.

Since a decision regarding free-flow is subjective in nature, reasons for the determination must be documented. Rivers that are found not to be free-flowing are ineligible and need not be considered further.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

The term “outstandingly remarkable” is not defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. A guideline generally accepted by the federal agencies is that determinations of outstandingly remarkable values should be a matter of informed professional judgment. Approaches used in evaluating candidate rivers have been variable, due to differing interpretations and agency personnel. This has led to inconsistent results in river resource assessments conducted to determine eligibility. The process set forth below is intended to provide a standard that will yield consistent results across agency lines and between administrative units within the agencies.

The resources to be evaluated for eligibility are identified in Section 1(b) of the Act as “scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.” (Other similar values can include paleontologic, botanic, etc.) A river corridor need exhibit only one outstandingly remarkable value to be eligible.

Regarding the nature of outstandingly remarkable river resources, there are three key points:

1. River-related. All values assessed should be directly river-related. They should be located in the river or river corridor (at least ¼ mile from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river), contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem and its public value, or owe their location or existence to the river. The rationale is that this is the Wild and Scenic River program, rather than a generalized land and resource conservation program and it is therefore appropriate to focus attention on the river and resources related directly to it.

2. Regionally significant. Resources should be at least regionally significant to be deemed outstandingly remarkable. To make this determination, a region should be explicitly delineated so that the significance of the rivers under review can be compared against others in the region. Selection of a region of an appropriate size and character is critical in arriving at a realistic determination of regionally significant rivers.

Comparative regions should not be so large as to deemed outstandingly remarkable rivers to only those few that stand out as the very best in the nation, nor so small that most rivers qualify as exemplary in some way. Within each region, like rivers should be assessed against each other to allow the comparison of similar types of river resources.

To fine-tune the resource assessment, a set of comparative regions can be delineated according to the specific resources along the river(s) being evaluated. For example, recreational resources may best be evaluated within a region based upon travel time from the population served, whereas cultural resources may best be evaluated in the area historically inhabited by that culture.

The map in Appendix A identifies nine hydrologic regions (actually sub regions) within the state of Utah as defined by the U.S. Geological Survey. This delineation provides an example of one way to define regions for river eligibility purposes. It may be used as a tool or starting point for agency planners in the important, but often difficult, task of defining appropriate comparative regions.

While adopting a uniform set of regions for all future wild and scenic river analyses in Utah would maximize the efficiency gains of cumulative results, it is likely some modification of the regions will provide more accurate results in many circumstances. Therefore, the determination of the appropriate region of comparison is left to the individuals involved in the ongoing planning effort. The key is that an appropriate region(s) is explicitly defined and that the methodology herein described is applied within that region(s).

3. Rare, unique or exemplary. Features that are regionally exemplary, as well as those that are rare or unique, should be considered. Exemplary features are outstanding examples of common, but important types. For instance, the highest quality habitat of an important fish species common to an area could be exemplary features in the analysis ensures that high quality rivers that typify the nation's diversity will be preserved as well as those with rare or unique features.

PROCESS FOR DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

The following are the twelve steps in the process for determining eligibility:

Step 1: Inform interested entities and request input. (Refer to the preceding section on consultation, coordination, and public involvement.) Contact other federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments, conservation and user groups, and the interested public. Specifically request river nominations and information about outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing character.

Step 2: Develop an inventory list. Rivers in the planning area which may have potential for wild and scenic river designation must be identified and evaluated. Use all available sources of information to highlight rivers that may have regionally significant resource values, including:

- Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) list
- 1970 United States Department of Agriculture/United States Department of the Interior inventory list.
- State of Utah, local government, Indian tribe, and conservation group lists.
- Public nominations
- Other

Step 3: Divide rivers into reaches of essentially similar character. Look at each river as a whole as it flows through the planning area, and consider dividing it into segments only when there is a significant change in the character of the river or river corridor. Changes in river character such as the presence of dams and reservoirs; significant changes in types or amount of development; significant changes in physiographic character, tributaries, or features; and/or significant changes in land status should be considered in identifying river segments simply because there are several small private sections interspersed along the river. It may be better to identify one longer segment that contains various ownership jurisdictions.

Step 4: Determine if segments are free-flowing. (Refer to the previous section on free-flowing character.) The segment must be riverine in appearance and be free of high head dams and extensive rip-rap or major diversions. Further evaluation of the resources of non-free-flowing segments is unnecessary, since these segments are ineligible.

Step 5: Identify river resource values/features which may be significant. Resource analysis should focus on those natural/cultural/recreational river resources that have potential to be regionally significant. A preliminary review should be conducted to reveal resources of potential significance that should be reviewed more thoroughly.

Step 6: Determine the region(s) of comparison in which the rivers under review occur. (Refer to the preceding section on regional significance.)

Step 7: Identify the criteria that contribute to the significance of each resource value/feature. Be as specific as possible in defining criteria against which to evaluate river resources. For example, for resident fisheries this might include specific parameters relating to habitat quality, diversity and value of species, natural reproduction, size and vigor of fish. See Appendix B for examples of criteria that might be considered for various resources, and Appendix C for generalized verbiage from the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service manuals on the nature of outstandingly remarkable values.

Step 8: Evaluate each resource value/feature based upon the criteria developed in Step 7. Use and interdisciplinary team of technical experts to determine the significance of resources within the region. Utilize information from all knowledgeable sources in the public and private sectors (Refer to Step 1). In order to determine regional significance of river resources, it is imperative that similar rivers be compared to each other rather than comparing all rivers to some one standard within the region.

It may be helpful in some cases to rank the specific resource values of similar rivers based on a given scale.

An example of a qualitative scale might be:

- 0 points – value non-existent
- 1 points – less significant than most in the region
- 2 points – typical, one of many equally significant in the region
- 3 points – one of only a few this significant in the region
- 4 points – the most significant in the region

An example of a quantitative scale might be:

- 1 point – runnable less than 2 months/year
- 2 points – runnable 2 to 3 months/year
- 3 points – runnable 4 to 8 months/year
- 4 points – runnable 9 to 12 months/year

Some indication of significance levels (and tentative outstandingly remarkable values) may be determined for each resource value/feature by examining the results of the ranking. Such rankings could be used as support documentation, but would replace the need for detailed narrative.

Look for synergistic effects. Several resource values of above average significance may cumulatively constitute a regionally significant river. Use professional judgment and make sure the results make sense and are documented.

Step 9: Document the process and results. Provide detailed narrative on the reasoning leading to preliminary findings of eligibility or non-eligibility of rivers. Identify the reason for the determination that a river segment is or is not free-flowing. Identify the region(s) of comparison. Describe in detail the character and resource values of each river, and why they are or are not outstandingly remarkable.

Step 10: Make preliminary findings of tentative classification for each eligible river segment. See the classification table from the federal interagency guidelines in Appendix D. Document reasons to support preliminary findings of tentative classification for each segment that appears to be eligible.

Step 11: Provide for public review and comment. Present preliminary findings of eligibility and tentative classification and associated documentation to federal agencies and state, tribal, and local governments, conservation and user groups, and the interested public for comment and additional input.

Step 12: Complete documentation of findings and provide feedback. Consider comments that are received before making findings of eligibility and tentative classification. Provide feedback to all involved entities.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Map of Hydrologic Regions in Utah

Appendix B: Sample Outstandingly Remarkable Value Evaluation Criteria

Appendix C: Outstandingly Remarkable Value Standards

Appendix D: Classification Table

Appendix E: Suitability Factors

APPENDIX A
MAP OF HYDROLOGIC REGIONS IN UTAH

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following is a partial list of criteria which could be considered in evaluating resource values. The list is illustrative only. The criteria employed in any given instance should be tailored to suit the specific resources of the rivers under review. In some instances, it may be advantageous to evaluate specific subcategories of these resources separately (e.g. whitewater boating, big game wintering areas, anadromous fish, etc.).

SCENIC

Diversity of View	Consider the presence of high relief; severe surface variation; rich color combinations (i.e. high variety, vivid colors); pleasing contrast in soil, rock, vegetation, and water; views that greatly enhance visual quality; still or cascading water that is dominant in the landscape. River corridors with the greatest diversity and variety of views, both foreground and background, are of higher value.
Special Features	Consider outstanding natural, historical or cultural features; landforms with unusual or outstanding topographic features (e.g. gorges, high relief, rock outcrops, canyons, falls, rapids, springs, hot springs, color, vegetation, etc.). River corridors with high relief and focal points that are visually striking, particularly memorable, or rare in the region are of higher value.
Seasonal Variations	Consider diversity of vegetation types in interesting patterns, textures, color and contrast. River corridors with the greatest seasonal variation and diversity are of higher value.
Cultural Modifications	Consider modifications and man-made features within the corridor and view shed. View sheds those are free from aesthetically undesirable sights and influences are generally of higher value. Man-made features that exist may in some cases add to visual appeal.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

FISH

Habitat Quality	Consider the presence, extent, and carrying capacity of spawning areas, rearing areas and adult habitat; and habitat for wild stocks and rare species (federally listed, state-listed, sensitive species, or candidate species). Areas with the greatest amount and best habitat, especially for wild stock and rare species, are of higher value.
Diversity of Species	Consider the number and variety of species present and the value of these species; greatest diversity of species, including wild stocks and rare species, are of higher value.
Value of Species	Rivers which are either highly used by anglers or which offer an unusual recreation experience for the Region are of higher value.
Abundance of Fish	Rivers with more fish are of higher value.
Natural Reproduction	Rivers with extensive self-sustaining natural reproduction are of higher value than those supported mostly by stocking.
Size and Vigor of Fish	Rivers which produce large vigorous fish are of higher value.
Quality of Experience	Consider the sights, sounds, and smells attendant with the fishing experience. Highly scenic, pristine rivers are of higher value as compared to rivers that are visually monotonous, heavily developed, malodorous, or noisy.
Cultural/Historic Importance	Consider the significance to Native Americans. Rivers which have substantial existing use or which have been traditionally utilized as a Native American fishery and/or have been documented historically for sizeable runs are of higher value.
Recreational Importance	Rivers which are either highly used by anglers or which offer an unusual recreation experience for the Region are of higher value.
Access	Consider the availability of public or private access points, ease of use, and attendant facilities (parking, trails, etc.). This is a descriptive criterion, not one that will be used to assign a value, because on some rivers, poor access can be an advantage in limiting crowding.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

RECREATION – Water Oriented

Length of Season	Consider the amount of time the river is runnable in a variety of water craft. Rivers with the longest season of use are of higher value.
Diversity of Use	Consider the number and variety of watercraft (e.g. canoe, raft, and kayak) that can be used on the river. Rivers allowing for the largest number and diversity of watercraft are of higher value.
Flow	Consider the consistency and reliability of flow during runnable seasons. Rivers with consistent flows and the fewest periods of extreme fluctuations are of higher value.
Character of Run	Consider the diversity of channel structure (braiding, islands, gorges, wide spots, rapids, etc.), river bed materials, and current/flow characteristics; level to which the run maintains interest and provides challenge to the boater. Rivers with more diverse, interesting, and challenging runs are of higher value.
Scenery/Naturalness	Consider the scenic beauty and diversity, pristine quality; extent of undeveloped areas. Rivers with more scenic runs are of higher value.
Access	Consider the availability of private and public access points, ease of use, and attendant facilities (parking, boat ramps, trails, etc.). This is a descriptive criterion, not one to assign value, because on some rivers poor access can be advantageous to limit crowding.
Level of Use	This is a descriptive criterion, not one that will be used to assign a value, since a little used river should not by itself indicate a lower value, and an intensively used river may indicate a diminished value due to overcrowding.
Associated Opportunities	Consider the number and frequency of opportunities encountered along the run for hiking, photography, fishing, picnicking, swimming, wildlife, viewing and other similar experiences; segments with the greatest opportunities for associated recreation are of higher value.
Attraction	Consider the ability to attract visitors from outside the geographic Region. Rivers that attract a variety of users who are willing to travel some distance with their primary intent to use the river for water oriented recreation and rivers that provide a setting for National or Regional competitive events are of higher value.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

RECREATION – General

Length of Season	Consider the amount of time the river corridor is used or available for recreation purposes, such as outdoor education, photography, natural history studies, mountain climbing, hiking, camping, horseback riding, and ski-touring, etc. Rivers with the longest season of use are of higher value.
Diversity of Use	Consider the number and variety of recreation uses occurring within the corridor. Rivers that provide the most unique opportunities are of higher value.
Experience Quality	Consider the comparative number or percent of similar experiences available in the Region. Rivers that provide the most unique opportunities are of higher value.
Scenery/Naturalness	Consider the scenic beauty and diversity; presence of panoramic views; pristine quality; level of remoteness/wildness; and the extent of undeveloped areas. Scenic and undeveloped corridors are generally of higher value, but corridors with developed recreation facilities may be considered higher in some cases.
Access	Consider the availability of private and public access points, ease of use, and attendant facilities (parking, boat ramps, trails, etc.). This is a descriptive criterion, not one to assign value, because on some rivers poor access can be advantageous to limit crowding.
Level of Use	This is another descriptive criterion, since a little used river should not by itself indicate a lower value, and an intensively used river may indicate a diminished value due to overcrowding.
Associated Opportunities	Consider the extent of opportunities for hiking, photography, fishing, picnicking, swimming, wildlife, viewing and other similar experiences. Rivers with the greatest opportunity for associated recreation are of higher value.
Attraction	Consider the ability to attract visitors from outside the geographic Region. Rivers that attract a variety of users who are willing to travel some distance with their primary intent to use the river for recreation experiences and rivers that provide a setting for National or Regional competitive events are of higher value.
Sites and Facilities	Consider the extent of or potential for appropriate facility development (such as camping areas, trailheads, etc.). Rivers with the greatest number of existing/potential recreation facilities may be of higher value depending upon the type of recreation opportunity provided.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

WILDLIFE

Habitat Quality	Consider the presence, extent, and carrying capacity of a variety of wildlife habitats, including winter range, summer range, transition zones, travel corridors, and calving areas. Consider unique habitats or critical links in habitat for rare species (federally listed, state-listed, sensitive species, or candidate species). Areas with the greatest and best habitat, contiguous habitat, and habitat for rare species are of higher value.
Diversity of Species	Consider the number and variety of species present and the value of these species. Rivers with the greatest diversity of species, including rare species, are of higher value.
Abundance of Species	River with the greatest number of wildlife within the river corridor is of higher value.
Natural Reproduction	Rivers with extensive natural reproduction are of higher value than those supported mostly by transplants.
Size and Vigor of Species	Rivers which produce vigorous and self-sustaining wildlife populations are of higher value.
Quality of Experience	Consider the sights, sounds, and smells attendant with wildlife experience. Highly scenic, pristine rivers are of higher value as compared to rivers that are visually monotonous, heavily developed, malodorous, or noisy.
Cultural/Historic Importance	Consider Native American cultural uses of species and habitat. Rivers with cultural significance to Native Americans are of higher value.
Recreational Importance	Rivers which are either highly used by hunters or which offer an unusual recreation experience for the Region are of higher value.
Access	Consider the availability of public or private access points, ease of use, and attendant facilities (parking, trails, etc.). This is a descriptive criterion, not one that will be used to assign a value, because on some rivers, poor access can be an advantage in limiting crowding.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

GEOLOGIC

Feature Abundance Consider landforms with unusual or outstanding geologic/hydrologic features (e.g. gorges, arches, badlands, oxbows, caves, relic shoreline, bogs, waterfalls, deep canyons, hot springs, unique rock formations and outcrops). River corridors with an abundance of unusual, unique, and distinctive geologic features to the Region are of higher value.

Diversity of Features Consider the number and variety of special geologic/hydrologic features, and the value of these features to the Region. Consider the unique or rare combination of geologic/hydrologic features (e.g. erosional, volcanic, and glacial). River corridors with the greatest diversity of geologic/hydrologic features are of higher value.

Educational/Scientific Geologic/hydrologic features clearly and graphically reveal an interesting/unique educational or scientific story of earth's history. River corridors that represent "textbook" examples of a common feature or are the best example of a feature in the Region are of higher value.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

HISTORIC

Significance	Consider sites that contain a site or feature associated with a historically significant event, person, or activity of the past (e.g. major railroad sites, Mormon history, and early explorers); associated with exceptional or important persons (e.g. John Wesley Powell, Brigham Young). Rare, unique, or unusual sites or features within the Region are of higher value.
Site Integrity	Consider the presence of exceptional examples of architecture from a significant period in history; sites that are unmodified and retain their original character; features that are exceptional examples within the Region. River corridors that contain exceptional sited in exceptional condition are of the higher value.
Education/Interpretation	Consider sites that have Regional or National importance for interpreting significant historic events or people; sites that clearly and graphically reveal an interesting or unique history of the Region; and sited that have the ability to attract visitors from outside the Region. River corridors that represent “textbook” examples of an historic event or provide the best example of an event in the Region are of higher value.
Listing/Eligibility	Consider sites or features that are currently listed in, or are eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places or that have been designated as National Historic Landmarks. Rivers with such features, particularly if in abundance, are of higher value.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

CULTURAL

Significance	Consider evidence of significant occupation and use by Native Americans or other prehistoric cultures (e.g. major anasazi sites, prehistoric sites, ceremonial areas, fishing areas, sacred religious sites). Consider sites that have significant human interest value; are rare or represent an area where a culture was first identified. Rare, unique, or unusual sites or features within the Region are of higher value.
Current Uses	River corridors containing sites or features that are significant to Native American populations today, are of higher value.
Number of Cultures	River corridors that represent more than one culture or cultural periods that may have been used concurrently by more than two culture groups, or used for rare or sacred purposes are of higher value.
Site Integrity	Consider the presence of exceptional examples of Native American and pre-historic features or remains from a significant period in history; sites that are unmodified and retain their original character; features that are in excellent condition and provide an exceptional example within the Region. River corridors that contain exceptional sites in exceptional condition are of higher value.
Education/Interpretation	Consider sites that have Regional or National importance for interpreting significant prehistoric events, sites, or people; sites that clearly and graphically reveal an interesting or unique history of the Region; and have the ability to attract visitors from outside the Region. River corridors that represent “textbook” examples of a Native American or other pre-historic culture or provide the best example of an event or culture in the Region are of higher value.
Listing/Eligibility	Consider corridors that contain sites or features that are currently listed in, or are eligible for, the National Register or Historic Landmark. Rivers with such features, particularly if in abundance, are of higher value.

APPENDIX B
SAMPLE OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE EVALUATION CRITERIA

ECOLOGICAL

Species Diversity	Consider the presence, extent, and diversity of plant communities, ecological values that are critical to protection of biological diversity; critical habitat for species conservation (e.g. refugia). River corridors with the greatest diversity and importance to species conservation are of higher value.
Ecological Function	Rivers with rare or unique corridors that are critical and essential for species migration and genetic interaction are of higher value.
Rare Communities	Rivers with rare, sensitive, threatened and endangered species and communities are of higher value.
Educational/Scientific	Consider ecological values and features that clearly and graphically reveal an interesting/unique educational or scientific story of the ecological form and function. River corridors that represent “textbook” examples of plant and animal associations or ecological values/features in the Region are of higher value.

APPENDIX C

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE STANDARDS

The BLM and Forest Service manuals include verbal descriptions of the nature of outstandingly remarkable values. These descriptions are meant to indicate minimum thresholds for Outstandingly Remarkable Resources and are meant to be illustrative, not definitive nor all-inclusive. In some cases, a resource value may meet some or all of the criteria yet may not, for a well documented reason, be determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value. In other situations, a value may be determined to be outstandingly remarkable for a reason not listed. The important step is to document the rationale for the determination.

These standards are not meant to replace or shortcut the process of comparative regional analysis. They should be used as a starting point in understanding the general level of significance required for a river resource to be outstandingly remarkable. As the resource assessment progresses and criteria are defined, more-precise standards for outstandingly remarkable values will be developed.

SCENIC

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions within the region. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time over the majority of the river or river segment. Existing agency procedures for evaluating scenery may be used to identify rivers with outstanding scenic resources.

RECREATIONAL

Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, unique enough to attract visitors from outside of the geographic region. Visitors would be willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract visitors from outside the geographic region. The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events. Consider evaluating specific, high-use recreation activities (e.g. whitewater boating) separately.

GEOLOGIC

The river corridor contains an example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomena that is rare or unique to the geographic region, or an outstanding example of a commonly occurring feature. The feature may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a rare or unique combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, etc.).

APPENDIX C

OUTSTANDINLY REMARKABLE VALUE STANDARDS

FISH

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of fish populations, habitat, Native American cultural use, or a combination of these factors. Consideration shall be given to potential as well as existing values.

Populations: The river is internationally, nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks or rare species (federally listed, state-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species). Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

Habitat: The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife or national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for rare species (federally listed, state-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species). Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife values shall be judged on the relative merits of populations, habitat, and Native American cultural use, or a combination of these factors.

Populations: The river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or rare species (federally listed, state-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species). Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

Habitat: The river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife or national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for rare species (federally listed, state-listed, or candidate threatened or endangered species). Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

HISTORIC

The river corridor contains a site or feature associated with a significant event, on important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, unusual or unique in the region. An historic site and/or feature in most cases are 50 years old or older. Of particular significance are National Historic Landmarks, or sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

APPENDIX C OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE STANDARDS

CULTURAL

The river corridor contains a site where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans or some other prehistoric culture. Sites must have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare or represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes. Of particular significance are sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register or Historic Places.

ECOLOGIC

The river corridor constitutes an important element of a regional plan to conserve biological diversity or other specific ecologic resources. Examples of important elements include rare communities or ecosystems, watersheds with special values or that is the focus of special management, essential corridors for species migration and genetic interactions, and other values or that is the focus of special management, essential corridors for species migration and genetic interactions, and other values of importance.

APPENDIX D
CLASSIFICATION TABLE

TABLE 2
CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS

ATTRIBUTE	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Water Resources Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable.	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds federal criteria for federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming), except where exceeded by natural conditions.	No criteria prescribed by the Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.	

APPENDIX E

SUITABILITY FACTORS

The suitability phase of the study evaluates whether designation into the national system would be the best way to manage eligible rivers. As directed by the Act, the federal guidelines, and agency policy manuals, the following items should be addressed while considering whether a river is suitable for inclusion in the national system.

- Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the national system
- Landownership and current uses
- Resources and uses enhanced, curtailed and foreclosed
- Existing resource protection
- Other federal agency, local, tribal and state government, and general public support for acting to protect and manage the river.
- Alternatives and impacts (on resources, uses, valid existing rights, etc.)
- Manageability to protect outstandingly remarkable values
- Feasibility and timeliness of designation
- Costs required for land/easement acquisition and corridor management
- Extent to which administration costs will be shared by local and state governments
- Other issues identified in the planning process